

Message Text

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ORIGIN STR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01
INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02
SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-11 /127 R

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R 240301Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USMISSION GENEVA
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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USEEC, USMTN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJECT: MEETING BETWEEN AMBASSADOR STRAUSS AND DANISH
PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN

1. SPECIAL TRADE REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT STRAUSS MET WITH
DANISH PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN AT BLAIR HOUSE ON FEBRUARY
22 FOR WIDE RANGING, PRODUCTIVE, AND FRIENDLY DISCUSSION
OF VARIOUS TRADE ISSUES. ALSO PRESENT WERE DANISH FOREIGN
MINISTER ANDERSEN, DANISH AMBASSADOR TO US BORCH, US
AMBASSADOR TO DENMARK DEAN, AND SEVERAL OTHER DANISH
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OFFICIALS ACCOMPANYING PRIME MINISTER.

2. AMBASSADOR STRAUSS BEGAN BY REQUESTING THAT EC MAKE MTN
OFFER AS SPECIFIC AS POSSIBLE PROMPTLY, SO THAT DETAILED
BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS CAN PROCEED. NOTING THAT WE UNDER-
STAND PARTICULAR DIFFICULTIES POSED BY UPCOMING FRENCH
ELECTIONS STRAUSS EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE NECESSARY WORK IS

BEING DONE AT THE STAFF LEVEL SO THAT SPECIFIC OFFER CAN BE TABLED IMMEDIATELY AFTER ELECTIONS. PRIME MINISTER RESPONDED THAT FORM OF THE JANUARY 23 EC OFFER RESULTED FROM DIFFICULTY IN REACHING CONSENSUS AMONG NINE COUNTRIES WITH DIFFERENT VIEWS AND REQUIREMENTS BUT THAT IN ANY EVENT EC POSITION ON EXCEPTIONS OBVIATED NEED FOR LINE BY LINE TARIFF OFFER. AMBASSADOR STRAUSS NOTED THAT WHILE THIS MAY

BE SO WE WOULD STILL LIKE EC RESPONSE TO OUR NTM REQUESTS AND SHOULD EC DECIDE TO TAKE EXCEPTIONS ON TARIFFS SPECIFIC OFFER WILL BE NECESSARY.

3. AMBASSADOR STRAUSS CITED SUBSIDIES AS A PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT ELEMENT FOR THE U.S. NOTING THAT WE HAD MADE EC CONCERNS IN THE SAFEGUARDS AREA SUBJECT TO ACTIVE NEGOTIATION, HE URGED EC TO DO LIKEWISE ON SUBSIDIES. PRIME MINISTER RESPONDED THAT DENMARK AGREES WITH THE NEED TO REDUCE AGRICULTURAL SUBSIDIES AND WILL SEEK TO WORK OUT A US-EC COMPROMISE WHEREBY SUBSIDIES WOULD NOT BE ELIMINATED ALTOGETHER BUT WOULD BE CONTROLLED AND VISIBLE. PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THREAT OF COUNTERVAILING DUTIES TO WHICH AMBASSADOR STRAUSS RESPONDED THAT ONLY WAY TO DEAL WITH THIS MATTER IS THROUGH MEANINGFUL PROGRESS ON SUBSIDIES CODE.

4. STRAUSS URGED FORCEFULLY THAT POLITICAL LEVEL CONSENSUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUS ON BASIC ELEMENTS OF THE MTN PACKAGE COULD BE REACHED BY JULY 1978 AS EASILY AS LATE IN THIS YEAR OR SOMETIME IN 1979. MINOR TECHNICAL FOLLOWUP WORK COULD TAKE PLACE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS AFTER JULY. STRAUSS EMPHASIZED THAT PREVIOUS MTN DEADLINES HAD AT FIRST APPEARED DIFFICULT BUT HAD BEEN MET. U.S. VERY MUCH WANTED CRUCIAL HIGH LEVEL DECISIONS MADE IN MAY AND JUNE OF THIS YEAR DURING DANISH CHAIRMANSHIP OF EC. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSEN AS TO HOW SUCH A PACKAGE WOULD TIE INTO THE ELECTION YEAR IN THE UNITED STATES, STRAUSS RESPONDED THAT HE WOULDN'T BRING HOME A PACKAGE IF IT COULDN'T BE SOLD ON CAPITOL HILL. THE NINETY WORKING DAY DEADLINE FOR CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF NTB AGREEMENTS WOULD DELAY A CONGRESSIONAL VOTE UNTIL EARLY 1979 SO OUR ELECTIONS WILL NOT BE A PROBLEM.

5. AMBASSADOR STRAUSS NOTED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLITICAL CAPITAL IN THE TRADE AREA WAS BEING USED UP IN ITS REPEATED REFUSALS TO GRANT IMPORT RELIEF, THE MOST RECENT CASE BEING INDUSTRIAL FASTENERS. ENOUGH CAPITAL STILL EXISTS, HOWEVER, TO GET AN MTN PACKAGE APPROVED IF IT IS FAIR AND EQUITABLE. THEREFORE, FROM OUR VIEWPOINT THERE

IS NO REASON NOT TO CONCLUDE THE NEGOTIATIONS THIS SUMMER.

6. PRIME MINISTER RAISED THE QUESTION OF TREATMENT OF LDC'S. AMBASSADOR STRAUSS RESPONDED THAT US HAS SET UP SPECIAL GROUP IN GENEVA UNDER AMBASSADOR MCDONALD'S SUPERVISION TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH LDC'S ON A ONE ON ONE BASIS. WE ARE PREPARED TO DEAL WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN PRAGMATIC AND FORTHCOMING FASHION BUT INTEND TO TAKE DUE ACCOUNT WHEN A GIVEN SECTOR OR AN ENTIRE LDC ADVANCES TO

WHERE TREATMENT AS A DEVELOPING COUNTRY IS NO LONGER JUSTIFIED.

7. PRIME MINISTER NEXT RAISED ISSUE OF US AND EC RELATIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH JAPAN. AMBASSADOR STRAUSS EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THE STRAUSS-USHIBA JOINT STATEMENT TOOK CARE OF IMMEDIATE US AND EC NEEDS BY SETTING A NEW DIRECTION FOR JAPANESE TRADE POLICY. THIS WAS ONLY FIRST CHAPTER OF A LONG BOOK HOWEVER AND MUCH WILL DEPEND ON OUR ABILITY TO MOUNT AN AGGRESSIVE EFFORT TO PENETRATE THE JAPANESE MARKET. PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA'S STRONG ENDORSEMENT OF THE JOINT STATEMENT IN HIS SPEECH TO THE DIET DEMONSTRATED HIS POLITICAL COMMITMENT TO TRADE LIBERALIZATION AND HIS PERSONAL STAKE IN FAVORABLE MOVEMENT ON THESE ISSUES.

8. PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN NOTED THAT MINISTER ANDERSEN WOULD BE GOING TO JAPAN NEXT WEEK TO COMPLETE THE THIRD SIDE OF THE TRIANGLE, EMPHASIZING THE SIMILARITY OF OUR INTERESTS VIS-A-VIS JAPAN.

9. THE PRIME MINISTER REITERATED HIS INVITATION TO AMBASSADOR STRAUSS TO VISIT COPENHAGEN AS HIS GUEST. AMBASSADOR STRAUSS ACCEPTED, NOTING HE CURRENTLY PLANS TO VISIT COPENHAGEN ON APRIL 6.

10. FOR GENEVA. SCHEDULE PERMITTING AMBASSADOR STRAUSS REQUESTS THAT AMBASSADOR MCDONALD JOIN HIM IN COPENHAGEN FOR MEETINGS WITH DANES ON APRIL 6. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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